Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest Rules & Safety Guidelines

1. Registration

- All participants must register in advance.
- One designated adult (18 or older) must serve as the team leader and be present during decorating.
- Teams are responsible for supervising any participating children at all times.

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2. Decorating Time

- Decorating must take place only during the assigned setup time.
- All decorating materials must be removed from walkways immediately after setup.
- Trees must be completed by the designated deadline.

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3. Ladder Safety

- To ensure the safety of all participants, ladders will not be allowed. To include step stools.

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4. Electrical Safety

- Due to the location of the trees on the grounds, electricity cannot be provided.

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5. Decorations

Some basic decorations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis

Trees will be kept up outside throughout the season, please keep the environment and weather in mind when choosing your decorations

Permitted:

- Ribbon
- Ornaments

- Garland
- Fabric
- Wood
- Paper
- Artificial greenery
- Battery-operated decorations

Not permitted:

- Open flames
- Real candles
- Sparklers
- Fireworks
- Smoking materials
- Live flames of any kind

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6. Prohibited Materials

For safety, the following may not be used:

- Aerosol spray snow during setup
- Loose glitter
- Confetti
- Sand
- Gravel
- Water features
- Dry ice
- Helium balloons
- Sharp metal objects
- Glass items that could easily break
- Hazardous chemicals

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7. Artificial Snow

- It must remain attached to the tree.
- Loose flocking or materials that fall onto walkways are prohibited.

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8. Tree Stability

- Trees may not be moved after placement by event staff.
- Decorations must not cause the tree to become unstable.
- Heavy items should be secured properly.
- Nothing may extend into walkways where it could strike visitors.

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9. Trip Hazards

Walkways around every tree must remain clear. No:

- boxes
- extension cords across aisles
- décor placed in walking paths
- tree skirts extending into aisles

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10. Children's Safety

Children participating must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Children may not:

- climb trees
- climb ladders
- handle electrical connections

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11. Fire Code

Decorations may not:

- block exits
- obstruct fire extinguishers
- interfere with emergency pathways

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12. Damage

Participants may not:

- nail or screw items into walls or buildings
- attach decorations to trees or landscaping without permission
- damage property

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13. Cleanup

Teams are responsible for:

- removing packaging
- disposing of trash
- leaving the decorating area clean

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14. Removal

Trees and decorations must be removed during the designated removal period unless donated to OLPH.

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15. Right to Remove

OLPH reserves the right to remove or modify any decoration that:

- presents a safety hazard,
- violates fire or electrical safety standards,
- contains offensive or inappropriate content, or

- is inconsistent with the mission and values of the Retreat Center.

Additional Considerations

- Decorations should be securely fastened to withstand wind.
- No loose items that could blow into walkways or neighboring displays.
- Decorations should not block sprinkler heads or emergency access.

I have read and agree to comply with the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest Rules and Safety Guidelines. I understand that failure to follow these requirements may result in removal of decorations or disqualification from the contest.

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Signature of group leader

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Name of Group or Business

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Date